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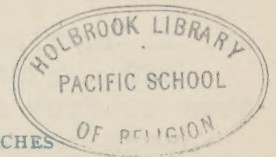
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the WORLD ALLIANCE for INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES  
the WORLD ALLIANCE of YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS  
the WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
the WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION  
the WORLD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



The aim of the Ecumenical Press Service is to keep its readers informed of trends of thought and opinion in and about the Churches and Christian movements. It is therefore not to be held responsible for opinions expressed in its news items.

No. 20

Fourteenth Year

May 23, 1947

## GREAT BRITAIN

## The Coming of European Voluntary Workers

The British Government faced by the twofold problem of securing the workers it needs for industry and agriculture and the necessity of solving the tragic situation of the uprooted people in Europe, decided to invite 100,000 Displaced Persons to volunteer as workers in Great Britain. The implementing of this decision has now begun, and before the Autumn it is expected that the first 50,000 will have arrived.

This major operation for resettlement came as a challenge to the Christian Church on which rests the responsibility for the spiritual welfare of those whom the British Government designates as European Volunteer Workers and not Displaced Persons. The London Office of the Ecumenical Refugee Commission got into touch with the Ministry of Labour. It was appointed by the Ministry to be the responsible body to arrange for the religious needs of the new workers and a consultative body in all that pertained to their welfare.

There are three stages in reception. First the workers are received into a transit camp where they remain for a few days. Then they go to "holding" camps or hostels. Here they are given instruction and if needful, retraining in their particular craft. Finally they go to their permanent hostel or home after their work has been assigned to them by a Special Selection Committee of the Ministry of Labour.

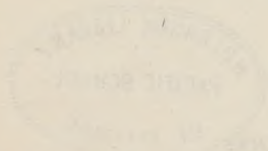
The Ecumenical Refugee Commission in all these matters is working through the British Council of Churches which, in its turn, gets into touch with local Churches. The workers who have arrived, have been met at the transit camps by Latvian, Estonian and Orthodox pastors who were already in England. Each worker on his arrival is given a written letter of welcome signed by the leaders of all the Churches, and particulars are given of the names and addresses of the appropriate pastor of his own faith.

An arrangement is being sought whereby refugee pastors from Europe shall accompany each group and remain with them in the transit or holding camp for a period. Then the pastors will return and come over with another transport. E.R.C. will select the pastors for this work.



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The aim of the Ecumenical Press Service is to help in the work of the Church in the world by providing a service of news and information to the Church and the world.

May 23, 1947

Ecumenical Press

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## EVENTS IN BRITAIN

### The Coming of European Volunteer Workers

The British Government faced by the two-fold problem of securing the resources it needs for industry and agriculture and the necessity of solving the problem of the unemployed people in Europe, decided to invite 100,000 European persons to volunteer as workers in Great Britain. The implementation of this decision has now begun, and before the autumn it is expected that the first 20,000 will have arrived.

This major operation for recruitment came as a challenge to the Christian Church on which rests the responsibility for the spiritual welfare of those whom the British Government designates as European Volunteer Workers and not Displaced Persons. The London Office of the Ecumenical Press Service, in close liaison with the Ministry of Labour, is now engaged in the Ministry to be the responsible body to arrange for the religious needs of the new workers and a committee body in all that pertains to their welfare.

There are three stages in reception. First the workers are received into a transit camp where they remain for a few days. Then they go to "holding" camps or hostels. Here they are given instruction and if necessary, retraining in their particular craft. Finally they go to their permanent hostel or home after their work has been assigned to them by a Special Selection Committee of the Ministry of Labour.

The Ecumenical Press Service is at all times active in working through the British Council of Churches which, in its turn, goes into touch with local churches. The workers who have survived, have been met at the transit camps by laymen, Estonian and Latvian pastors who were already in England. Each worker on his arrival is given a written letter of welcome signed by the pastor or all his churches, and pastoreaux are given of the names and addresses of the appropriate pastor of his own faith.

An arrangement is being sought whereby refugee pastors from Europe shall accompany each group and remain with them in the transit or holding camp for a period. Then the pastors will return and come with another transport. E.C.P. will select the pastors for this work.



From time to time E.R.C. representatives will visit the hostels. The first visit of this nature was made in May to the Hans Crescent holding hostel by the Rev. Henry Carter, the chairman of the Commission, and the Rev. Percy Ineson, the London secretary. The visit gave the visitors the distinct impression that the workers were being treated with consideration and courtesy and were being given every freedom both within and without the camp.

For the present the workers come for a year when their position will be reviewed. There is no doubt, however, that the majority will remain and that their care will be a continuing responsibility for the Church. So far families have not been invited, but there is a definite proposal that they shall be allowed to come. The Churches have pressed and will continue to press for this both because of the happiness of the workers involved and to save a recrudescence of a serious social problem which was only too prevalent during the war.

E.P.S. Geneva

## INDIA

### South India Churches Prepare for Union

With the announcement of the names of the new bishops, five of whom are Anglican and five of the other Churches, a decisive step has been taken towards the inauguration of the United Church of South India. An Electoral College selected the ten new bishops out of several nominations submitted by the different Church Councils of the South India United Church, the Synods of the Methodist Church and the Diocesan Councils of the Anglican Communion. Arrangements are being made for their consecration in September 1947.

The importance of this event is stressed by Prof. P.D. Devanandan of the United Theological College, Bangalore, in a letter to the Ecumenical Press Service:

Twenty-seven years of patient and persistent effort have gone into the making of the proposed United Church of South India. The denominations which enter into organic union are the Congregationalists and Presbyterians, the Methodists and the Anglicans.

The uniting Churches have agreed to accept the historic episcopate in a constitutional form. But no particular interpretation of episcopacy is accepted. Any communicant member of any Church which is in fellowship with any of the uniting Churches will be at liberty to communicate in any church of the United Church. If, for instance, a Presbyterian from Scotland or a Methodist from Britain or a Congregationalist from America were visiting South India, they would be welcome to receive communion in any of the churches of the Church of South India. Moreover, any minister of such a Church will be free, as a visitor, to minister or celebrate the Holy Communion in any church of the United Church, if he is invited to do so, provided the mutual pledge between the uniting Churches is not violated.

According to this pledge, 'neither forms of worship or ritual, nor a ministry to which they have not been accustomed, or to which they conscientiously object, will be imposed upon any congregation', during the next thirty years. More recently the present bishops of the four Anglican dioceses renewed the assurance.







The Church of India, Burma and Ceylon (as the Anglican communion is known in these countries) has given permission to the four South Indian dioceses to withdraw from their General Synod for a period of thirty years. So that, in a way, the Anglicans by uniting with the Church of South India are, at least for the time being, cutting themselves off from communion with the present Church during this period...

After union all candidates for the ministry will be episcopally ordained. As the scheme now stands, it is agreed that 'after this period of thirty years, the Church of South India will determine whether there shall continue to be any exceptions to the rule that its ministry is an episcopally ordained ministry'.

The South India scheme looks forward in faith and hope towards development in two directions. On the one hand, there is no doubt that as the South India Church becomes stabilised other communions which have not entered into union will seriously consider the possibility of joining. The Mar Thoma Syrian Church is already contemplating such action, although no official step has been thus far taken. The Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church will perhaps be the first to decide in favour of union. If the Mar Thomites and the Evangelical Lutherans join, the episcopal order of the ministry will be derived from the combined historical heritage of the Church of England, the Church of Sweden and the Orthodox Church of Syria. The other direction in which one might look for development is in the strengthening of the Church in South India. Undoubtedly the evangelistic work of the Church in all its varied aspects will receive a new impetus.

"We hope, concludes Prof. Devanandan, that in the united Church we can conserve all that is of spiritual value in our Indian Church and give full expression to the faith in Indian forms, so that the principle of the Catholic unity of the Body of Christ is locally interpreted. With the years, as the United Church in South India takes root in the soil, assimilating at the same time its comprehensive historic heritage from the Older Churches, it will stand out as truly ecumenical and truly indigenous."

E.P.S. Geneva

#### The Deaconesses' Work for Reconstruction

Recently a first meeting between the representatives of the Swiss, Dutch and German deaconess houses and of the Department of Reconstruction of the World Council of Churches took place at Riehen, Switzerland. The mother houses associated with the Kaiserswerth Verband were primarily concerned, but the whole question of post-war re-equipment and renewal was discussed. Many examples were given of the courageous work of deaconesses both during the war and the post-war period, despite the fact that many institutions are reduced, for lack of equipment, to a fraction of their working efficiency. Special emphasis was laid on the value of an international exchange of deaconesses. Representatives of the Reconstruction Department described the efforts that have already been made to aid deaconess work through the normal channels of the National Reconstruction Committees.

E.P.S. Geneva







Arrangements for the Assembly of the World Council  
of Churches, 1948

Detailed arrangements for the first General Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held in Amsterdam in 1948 were approved by the Provisional Committee of the World Council at its meeting at Buck Hill Falls (see E.P.S. No. 17).

A total of 50 recommendations ranging from accomodation of delegates to press arrangements were discussed and approved. Among these were the following:

(1) The Assembly will meet in Amsterdam from Sunday afternoon August 22nd to Sunday afternoon September 5th 1948. The final session may be changed to September 4th if this is found desirable.

(2) The mornings will be devoted to the four sub-topics of the study programme, "Man's Disorder and God's Design"; the afternoons to the constitution, business and work of the Council and such other special concerns as member Churches may suggest; the evenings to be used for public meetings and other gatherings.

(3) A service of worship is to be arranged each morning, planned according to the practice of different communions, with a brief and simple period of prayer each evening.

(4) The presiding officers at various plenary sessions will include Dr Van Dusen (chairman of the Study Department), the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Marc Boegner (chairman of the Administrative Committee), the Archbishop of Upsala, Dr John R. Mott and Archbishop Germanos.

(5) In the allocation of the approximately 450 places in the Assembly, each member Church shall be entitled to at least one place, the number of additional delegates for the larger bodies being determined by the Churches of each area.

(6) The member Churches will be asked to see to it that about one-third of the Assembly consists of lay persons, men and women.

(7) The fifty places assigned to the Younger Churches shall be distributed by the members of the Provisional Committee representing the Younger Churches, after consultation with the representatives of the Younger Churches attending the Conference of the International Missionary Council at Whitby, Canada, in July 1947.

(8) Churches may appoint alternates as well as principals.

(9) The Committee of the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches is to arrange for a youth delegation of from 50 to 100 persons who shall attend as observers.

(10) The Churches of each area are authorised to accredit a number of visitors equal to the number of delegates plus one-third. Provision is made for 600 of them. During the period of the Assembly several meetings especially for the visitors will be arranged.

(11) English, French and German will be the official languages of the Assembly, though other languages will be allowed at the discretion of the presiding officers.







A budget of \$110,000 for the Amsterdam Assembly was approved - the budget to be allocated as follows: from the Churches of the United States \$74,800, from other Churches \$35,200.

A proposal that the plenary sessions be open to representatives of the press "except on occasion when the Assembly may decide to meet in closed session" resulted in considerable discussion. It was voted to appoint a committee of five to report to the Provisional Committee in regard to the provision. E.P.S. Geneva

## SWITZERLAND

### The Basle Mission in the Post-War Period

Before the war the organisational, personal and financial responsibility for the five fields - Gold Coast, India, China, the Cameroons and Borneo - was shared between Southern Germany and Switzerland through the Basle Mission. Since the outbreak of war this responsibility has fallen on Switzerland alone, which has accepted the heavy burden in full realisation of its implications. The number of Swiss people available for the work is increasing and includes those with theological training.

In order to relieve missionaries who have been held in the mission field throughout the war, since the end of the war 74 persons have gone out: 28 to the Cameroons, 16 to the Gold Coast, 7 to India, 13 to China and 9 to Borneo. Those missionaries who had remained in charge of the organisation, who had been interned in the mission fields, and also (with a few exceptions) those German missionaries who were still abroad, have nearly all now returned home.

The first missionaries who went out to Borneo at the end of the war found a Church which had been completely cut off from the mission by the Japanese. This Church will not give up its independence in the setting of the Indonesian freedom movement, but is quite prepared to co-operate with the mission.

The Southern China, in India and on the Gold Coast the mission is faced by a native Church which is longing to be incorporated in the mission work. While the very young pioneer Church in the British Cameroons has to be encouraged to stand on its own feet.

The young Churches are anxious for independence, which is fully supported by the mission; but at the same time the native Church leaders are begging for more missionaries to be sent out from Switzerland, to give theological instruction, to evangelise and to serve their people. The mission is very anxious to send out missionaries of this kind. E.P.S. Geneva

## GERMANY

### Roman Catholics and the Reformation

In Munich the "Institute for Research on the Reformation" has been founded by Roman Catholics, under the supervision of Father Hugo Lang, O.S.B. "The Institute aims at bringing the confessions together for scientific study on questions concerning the Reformation period, and at preparing the way for genuine understanding."

E.P.S. Geneva



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GERMANYSuper-Confessional Co-operation

The representatives of the religious associations met together on April 14, 1947, under the presidency of the Evangelical Bishop of Berlin, Dr Dibelius, and resolved to form a working association of church and religious societies in Berlin and district.

The working association will be divided into seven groups. The Evangelical Church and the Roman Catholic Church each form one group; there are also the Jewish and other non-Christian monotheistic religious societies, the Union of Evangelical Free Churches, the Lutheran Free Churches, the Old Catholic Church, and the additional religious societies and organisations of which the Christian community was the first to join the association. Each of these groups will appoint a member to the Council, which will direct the working association. At a meeting of delegates opportunity will be given to every separate religious society to express itself through its own delegate.

As mentioned in the statutes, the Church and religious societies have been guided, in the formation of the working association, by the desire "to co-operate in mutual respect for the values and the freedom of religious activity".

It is the first meeting of this kind in Germany.

E.P.S. Geneva

SWITZERLANDTribute to Pastor Paul Vogt

On Founders' Day at the University of Zurich, the Theological Faculty bestowed the title of Honorary Doctor of Theology on Pastor Paul Vogt of Grabs, St. Gallen. For many years he has been the chief organiser of the church work for refugees and has carried out his task with great courage.

The World Council of Churches takes this opportunity of recalling with gratitude the great services which Dr Vogt has rendered for refugees during many years. He has been indefatigable in his efforts on behalf of the defenceless. He was always active wherever it was a question of unmasking anti-Semitism in every form as a grievous sin and an evil that was a danger to all.

Pastor Vogt now wishes to devote his whole time to his parish and to his work as President of the Swiss Association for help to the Confessing Church in Germany. He has therefore resigned his membership on the Ecumenical Refugee Commission, but he will remain in contact with it in the future.

E.P.S. Geneva

CHINANew President of Yenching University

Dr William H. Adolph has been named acting president of Yenching University in Peiping, the best theological school in China. He takes over duties relinquished by Dr J. Leighton Stuart, who is now the American Ambassador to China (see I.C.P.I.S. No. 27, 1946). Dr. Adolph, a former Cornell University biochemist, has divided his time since 1915 between China and the U.S.A., occupying teaching and research positions at Cheeloo University and Yenching in China and Illinois, Nebraska, Yale and Cornell Universities in the United States.



